

34. (Amended) The solid immersion mirror device according to claim 32, further comprising a component for converting light in the form of a light beam of a circular sectional shape into in the form of a light beam of a ring-shaped sectional shape.

35. (Amended) The solid immersion mirror device according to claim 32, wherein a surface of said medium is provided with a mask near said focus of the parabola, and said mask has a minute opening formed at said focus of the parabola.

36. (Amended) A reproducing apparatus for reading information recorded on a recording medium, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a solid immersion mirror device comprising a light-permeable medium having a refractive index greater than 1,

said solid immersion mirror device including

an upper surface formed in an upper portion of said medium, and

a side reflecting surface of a substantially tubular shape extending from said upper portion to a lower portion of said medium, the side reflecting surface being a part of a curved surface produced by rotating a parabola about a symmetry axis thereof,

wherein collimated light entering said medium along the symmetry axis of the parabola by way of said upper surface in a direction from said upper portion to said lower portion is reflected once from said reflecting surface while propagating in said medium, and is then focused to a focus of the parabola on a boundary of said lower portion, and

wherein said medium has a refractive index of not less than $1/\sin\theta$ wherein θ is a minimum incident angle on said reflecting surface;

an optical system for directing light emitted from said light source to said solid immersion mirror device;

a scanning mechanism for scanning said solid immersion mirror device along a recording surface of said recording medium, with said light focusing point of said immersion mirror device opposed to said recording surface; and

a detector for detecting light from said recording surface.

Add the following new claim:

59. The solid immersion mirror device according to claim 32, wherein said side reflecting surface has a lower end substantially laterally surrounding said light focusing point.